GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6445
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2005
PRICES OF DRUGS
Goel Shri Surendra Prakash

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the essential drugs and the prices of which were decontrolled by Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) under the Pharma Policy, 2002;

(b) the reasons for making these essential drugs out of the reach of common people?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) and (b) The Government announced the `Pharmaceutical Policy 2002` in February 2002. However, a pubiic interest litigation filed in the High Court of Karnataka at Bangalore resulted in an Order dated 12.11.02 which stopped the Government from implementing the price control regime of the Pharmaceutical Policy 2002. This Department filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Supreme Court of India against the Order of the Karnataka High Court, which has been admitted as SLP (C) No. 3668/2003.The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95.Prices of non-scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.